

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has delineated the following inventions as being patentably distinct.

Group I: Claims 1-6, drawn to a cosmetic, aromatic, pharmaceutical and/or food substance, in film form.

Group II: Claim 7, drawn to a method of preparing a cosmetic, aromatic, pharmaceutical and/or food substance in film form.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-6 with traverse in view of the following arguments why all of the claims should be examined together.

The claims of Group I are integrally linked with the claims of group II. Final product and method for making said products are interdependent and should be examined together. There is a commonality that exists between Groups I and II. It is a technical relationship that involves the same feature, and it is the technical feature that defines the contribution which each of the groups taken as a whole makes over the prior art, claims to the necessary process for producing the claimed product of the process must be examined along with claims to the elected inventions M.P.E.P. §809.

The Examiner simply alleges that the process claimed can be used to make other products or that the products can be made by another method. The Examiner is of the opinion that the term “comprising” encompasses many steps, however he has failed to supply any references or specific examples to support the allegation that the process can be used to make other products or that the products can be made by a different process. To simply allege a different product/process is not sufficient to suggest separate inventions, and the Office has failed to show that a burden exists in searching all of the claims.

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For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that if the invention of Group I is found allowable, withdrawn Group II, which includes the limitation of the allowable claims the rejoined.

Respectfully submitted,

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